

From: PUC

Sent: Monday, September 21, 2026 2:39 PM

To: 'Trent Rhodes' [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: [EXT] Subject: Public Comment: Strong Opposition to Black Hills Energy Rate Increases (Dockets EL26-003 & EL26-024)

Mr. Rhodes:

This is in response to your comments submitted to the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission. Your comments relate to two separate dockets:

[EL26-003](#) - In the Matter of the Application of Black Hills Power, Inc. dba Black Hills Energy for Authority to Increase Rates For its Utility Service in South Dakota, was opened on February 19, 2026.

[EL26-024](#) - In the Matter of the Application of Black Hills Power, Inc. dba Black Hills Energy for Approval to Amend its Phase In Plan Rate, was opened on August 5, 2026.

The Commission is conducting a review and investigation of Black Hills Energy's request to increase its rates in docket EL26-003. In this docket, Commission staff analysts and legal counsel are currently conducting a comprehensive review of the company's financial data, operational needs, and the potential impact on customers.

Additionally, docket EL26-024 is currently undergoing a thorough review by commission staff analysts and a staff attorney to determine if the project is prudent and the proposed rate just and reasonable.

In each docket, Commission staff will engage in discovery, asking questions and requesting supporting documentation from Black Hills Energy's staff regarding the petition and the items Black Hills Energy requests to recover. Once staff's analysis is complete, it will be presented to the Commission via the docket and be heard by the commissioners at a public, noticed meeting or hearing. The three commissioners will vote on whether to grant the request during that meeting or hearing.

To help you better understand how the PUC evaluates rate increase requests, I encourage you to review the [Electric Rate Increase Request Info Guide](#) available on the PUC website. This guide outlines the steps and considerations involved in our review.

Your message and this response will be filed under Comments and Responses in the EL26-003 and EL26-024 dockets. Given your interest, we encourage you to follow along as more information is received and posted in the dockets.

Chris Nelson, Chairman
Public Utilities Commission
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